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(6) STRUCTURAL INELASTICITY XVIII.

A Slip Model for Finite Element Plasticity.

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A regular pattern of triangular elements is assumed.

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Prandtl's punch problem is solved under plane strain conditions. Comparison is made with existing analytical and other numerical solutions, in order to evaluate the merits of allowing for discontinuities.

A SLIP MODEL FOR FINITE-ELEMENT PLASTICITY[1]

By

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and

Philip G. Hodge, Jr.[3]

Abstract

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known that perfectly plastic materials may exhibit discontinuities
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Comparison is made with existing analytical and other numerical
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1. Introduction. The basic concept of the finite element method is that a given structure or continuum is modeled by a finite assemblage of individual components or elements. Within each element and in the reactions between the elements simplifying assumptions are made in the static, kinematic, or constitutive equations.

In a pioneering paper in 1956, Turner, Clough, Martin, and Topp [1] proposed a finite element model for two dimensional problems which we shall refer to as the classical model. The elements are triangles and the model has the following properties: the displacement field is linear in each triangle and continuous over the whole domain; the strain stress fields are constant in each triangle; if the given body and surface force field is approximated by concentrated forces acting only at the nodes, then these forces must be in equilibrium at each node. The method has been extended to include plastic behavior.

Since the classical model and the slip model proposed herein are each based on a field which is kinematically admissible for the original continuum, the results will satisfy any kinematic minimum principle for the material involved. In particular, for an elastic/perfectly-plastic material the model yield-point will be an upper bound on that

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*Numbers in square brackets refer to items listed in the bibliography.

of the continuum [2]. However, as first pointed out
by Nagtegaal, Parks, and Rice [3], this upper bound
may be very poor or even infinite if the model does
not allow for incompressible motions.

This constraint, $\dot{\varepsilon}_{kk} = 0$, is not easily satisfied.
Indeed, in a large field of 4N triangles, there will
be approximately 2N nodes and two degrees of freedom
per node so that there is an average of one degree
of freedom per triangle. Therefore, one incompres-
sibility constraint per triangle will leave essentially
no degrees of freedom in the total domain, regardless
of the number of elements.

Nagtegaal et al resolved this dilemma by re-
quiring the triangles to be grouped in quadrilaterals
such as the squares in Fig. 1. It is easily shown
that if three of the four triangles in a quadrilateral
undergo any incompressible deformation, the fourth
will necessarily satisfy $\dot{\varepsilon}_{kk} = 0$. Thus there are
only 3N constraints, which leaves one degree of
freedom for each four triangles.

The velocity field associated with the yield-
point load of many continuum problems exhibits
another phenomenon which is not well modelled by the
classical finite element model, namely, discontinuity
of certain tangential velocity components. For
example, let us consider the identation of a semi-
infinite domain by a rigid beam under conditions of
plane strain. For the simple case of a rigid/perfectly
plastic material, Prandtl [4 , 2] presented a yield-
point incipient flow field (see Fig. 8b) which

involved part of the domain (the triangles) moving as
rigid bodies, and part of it (the quarter circle)
deforming with zero volume change. We observe that
the deforming part of the material moves relative to
the non-deforming part with a finite tangential
velocity discontinuity across the boundary separating
the regions.

Therefore, in view of the facts that any continuous
finite element model has difficulty representing
incompressible flow, and that tangential velocity
discontinuities actually exist in continuum solutions,
it appears worthwhile to investigate a finite element
model which will allow for such discontinuities.

In this paper we present a slip model in which
these discontinuities are the only permissible motion,
i.e. we consider an array of triangular elements which
are internally rigid, but can slip relative to each
other. In Secs. 2 and 3 we derive the basic equations
in the interior and on the boundary based on the
Principle of Virtual Work. In doing this, we visualize
the edge between two triangles as a rectangle of small
thickness and ignore second-order effects. Also, it
is shown that we have one degree of freedom per node
for this incompressible model. Section 4 considers a
simple problem explicitly to point out an interesting
aspect of non-uniqueness, and in Sec. 5 we present
results for an approximation to the Prandtl problem
for a rough punch. The results are compared with
known exact and numerical solutions. Finally, some

conclusions are drawn in Sec. 6.

2. <u>Interior domain</u>. Although the theory can be developed for any regular or irregular arrangement of triangles, we shall consider only the case of a regular array of isosceles right triangles illustrated in Fig. 1. In this two-dimensional finite element model the triangles are considered as rigid bodies which can slip relative to each other but must not become separated. Therefore, the only "strains" in the model will be measured by the relative motion or slip between the two adjacent triangles.

Let d_{ij} be the slip along the edge ij joining nodes i and j. It will be taken as positive when, from the viewpoint of an observer at node i and facing edge ij, the triangle on the right moves towards the observer with respect to the triangle on the left. Evidently $d_{ij} = d_{ji}$. A dimensionless strain is then defined by

$$\omega_{ij} = d_{ij} \, \ell_{ij}/\ell_o^{\,2} \tag{1}$$

where ℓ_{ij} is the length of the edge and ℓ_o is a reference length for the domain.

If we ignore boundary effects, then in a large domain with N nodes, there will be 2N triangles and 3N edges, hence there will be 3N generalized strains. The requirement that triangles do not separate will introduce several compatibility constraints among

these strains. In the first place, there can ob-
viously be no relative rotation of triangles so that
at most we need consider only two degrees of trans-
lational freedom per triangle, or a total of 4N for
the field. However, since even a uniform separation
is prohibited, there will be an additional constraint
on each of the 3N edges, so that we are left with only
N degrees of freedom, i.e. one degree of freedom per
node. It follows that, if one elementary mechanism
is associated with each node, all possible infinitesimal
motions in a large field may be expressed as linear
combinations of these mechanisms.

Figure 2 shows the elementary mechanisms
associated with generic "small" and "large" nodes.
Evidently Fig. 2b may be obtained from Fig. 2a by
a change of scale and a rotation so that the mechanisms
are essentially the same.

We define generalized displacements by

$$\theta_D = \ell d/\ell_o^2 \qquad \theta_G = \ell d/\ell_o^2 \tag{2}$$

The displacements across AD and DG must be equal so
that we can refer directly to the diagonal edge AG
in Fig. 2a; the diagonals through G, however, must
be considered independently. Evidently the strains
associated with the mechanisms in Figs. 2a and 2b
respectively are

$$\omega_{FG} = \omega_{GB} = \omega_{BA} = \omega_{AF} = \theta_D$$

$$\omega_{AG} = \omega_{BF} = -2\theta_D \tag{3a}$$

$$\omega_{FL} = \omega_{LH} = \omega_{HB} = \omega_{BF} = \theta_B$$

$$\omega_{FG} = \omega_{LG} = \omega_{HG} = \omega_{BG} = -\theta_B \qquad (3b)$$

The total strain along any edge will be the resultant of several mechanisms. For example

$$\omega_{FG} = \theta_D + \theta_I - \theta_F - \theta_G \qquad (4a)$$

$$\omega_{AG} = \theta_B + \theta_F - 2\theta_D \qquad (4b)$$

Let us expand a generic edge PQ to a finite thickness $\ell_o\delta$ as in Fig. 3. Then the displacement field

$$u = (1/2)(u' + u'') + y \, d_{PQ}/\ell_o\delta \qquad v = v' \qquad (5)$$

is continuous with the rigid triangle motions and the internal strain is the constant

$$\gamma_{xy} = d_{PQ}/\ell_o\delta = \omega_{PQ}\ell_o/\ell_{PQ}\delta \qquad (6)$$

Since a constant strain implies constant stress for any reasonable constitutive behavior, we define a generalized stress for the edge by

$$\tau_{PQ} = \lim_{\delta\to0} \int_A \frac{\sigma_{xy} \, dA}{k\ell_o\ell_{PQ}\delta} = \frac{\sigma_{xy}}{k} \qquad (7)$$

where k is the yield stress in shear. Then the dimensionless internal work is

$$w_{int} = W_{int}/k\ell_o^2 = \tau_{PQ}\omega_{PQ} \qquad (8)$$

which satisfies Prager's criterion [5] for generalized variables.

No external work will be done during the mechanism motions in Fig. 2, so that the associated internal work must vanish. Thus we obtain the generic

equilibrium equations

$$\tau_{FG} + \tau_{GB} + \tau_{BA} + \tau_{AF} - 2\tau_{AG} - 2\tau_{BF} = 0$$

$$\tau_{FL} + \tau_{LH} + \tau_{HB} + \tau_{BF} - \tau_{FG} - \tau_{LG} - \tau_{HG} - \tau_{BG} = 0 \quad (9)$$

at small and large nodes, respectively.

Since stress and strain are constant in an edge, the constitutive equations for an elastic/perfectly plastic material may be written as

$$IF \ |\tau_{PQ}| < 1 \ OR \ \tau_{PQ}\dot{\omega}_{PQ} < 0$$

$$THEN \ \dot{\tau}_{PQ} = (G'\ell_o/k\ell_{PQ})\dot{\omega}_{PQ} \quad (10a)$$

$$ELSE \ \dot{\tau}_{PQ} = 0 \quad (10b)$$

where we have defined

$$G'=G/\delta \quad (11)$$

Equations 10 and 11 imply that the edge is made of a fictitious material whose shear modulus tends to zero with δ so that G' remains finite. For such a model non-zero slips can be found even in the elastic range, but they will be expressed in terms of the single unknowable modulus G'.

3. Boundary value problem. In the previous section we have defined a model with one generalized displacement variable θ_i for each of the N interior nodes. For N sufficiently large, there are approximately N generalized displacements θ_i, 2N generalized strains ω_{ij}, and 2N stresses τ_{ij}. To determine these 5N unknowns, we have 2N strain-displacement equations (3), N equilibrium equations (9), and 2N constitutive equations (10). However, for any finite number N, the number of

variables and equations may vary slightly from these numbers due to some nodes and edges being on the boundaries.

To illustrate, let us regard ACHF in Fig. 2b as a complete domain subject to the indicated boundary conditions. We regard the boundary conditions as being applied to fictitious triangles external to the boundary. For example, triangle E'BC above line BC moves down with a prescribed velocity as indicated in Fig. 4.

No mechanism is associated with the fictitious point E', and the mechanism associated with B (Fig. 4) is simpler than that for an interior node. Therefore, Eq. (4a) should be replaced by

$$\omega_{BC} = \theta_E - (\theta_B + \theta_C)/2 \tag{12}$$

Next, we observe that in any finite rectangle the total number of degrees of freedom is one less than the total number of nodes. Indeed, if each interior and boundary node is given an equal motion θ, the result in view of (4) and (12) will be to leave the entire domain in its original position. Therefore, we may arbitrarily set $\theta_M = 0$ and eliminate the corresponding equilibrium equation as being a linear combination of the other equilibrium equations.

In the interior of Fig. 2b there are 5 unknown θ_i and 12 unknown ω_{ij} and τ_{ij} with a corresponding 5 equilibrium and 12 constitutive and strain-displacement relations. We now examine each boundary segment to determine the additional unknowns and equations.

The fictitious triangles J'ML and I'LK cannot move vertically, so that $\theta_M = 0$ implies that $\theta_L = 0$ which in turn implies $\theta_K = 0$. The stress $\tau_{LM} = \tau_{KL} = 0$ and the strains are free but of no interest. Thus we have added neither unknowns nor equations to the list of unknowns. Evidently the same conclusion applies to CHM and $\theta_H = \theta_C = 0$.

On KFA, a non-zero normal displacement is prescribed. Since $\theta_K = 0$ it follows from Fig. 4 that

$$\theta_F = 2u_o \ell/\ell_o \qquad \theta_A = 2\theta_F = 4u_o\ell/\ell_o \qquad (13)$$

A mechanism motion compatible with (13) leads to the equilibrium equation

$$\tau_{KG} + \tau_{AG} - \tau_{FG} + 2\tau_{FB} = T_2 \qquad (14)$$

where T_2 is the average dimensionless normal force on AK. Since $\tau_{KF} = \tau_{FA} = 0$ and the strains are irrelevant, we have added one unknown force T_2 and one new equation to our system.

On the top edge $\tau_{AB} = 0$ and ω_{AB} is irrelevant, but τ_{BC} and ω_{BC} are additional unknowns subject to (10) and (12) (with $\theta_C = 0$). The mechanism at B must satisfy

$$\theta_B = - 2v_o\ell/\ell_o \qquad (15)$$

and the corresponding equilibrium equation is

$$2(\tau_{AG} + \tau_{GC} - \tau_{BG}) - \tau_{BC} = T_1 \qquad (16)$$

where T_1 is the average dimensionless normal force on BC. Therefore, the total system balances with 33 equations and unknowns.

4. <u>Solution</u>. As with most elastic-plastic problems,
the general method of solution is to assume that all
θ_i, τ_{ij}, and ω_{ij} are known at a generic time t_o,
convert all equations to rate form, and solve for $\dot{\theta}_i$,
$\dot{\tau}_{ij}$, and $\dot{\omega}_{ij}$, and then find θ_i, τ_{ij}, and ω_{ij} at $t_o + \Delta t$
by linear integration. The interval Δt is chosen so
that no edge changes between elastic and plastic
during the interval, hence each edge is always on
the same branch of (10) during each rate solution.

Problems associated with choice of branch in
(10) turn out to be easily handled, but an interesting
lack of uniqueness occurs at certain stages. To
illustrate this phenomenon let us consider in detail
the problem where $v_o = 4d$, $u_o = -d$, and we are not
concerned with the resultant forces T_1 and T_2. Then
the non-zero boundary rates are

$$\dot{\theta}_B = -4\dot{d} \qquad \dot{\theta}_A = -2\dot{d} \qquad \dot{\theta}_F = -\dot{d} \qquad (17)$$

where we have taken $\ell_o = 2\ell$.

There are 5 homogeneous equilibrium rate equations

$$\dot{\tau}_{FG} + \dot{\tau}_{LG} - 2(\dot{\tau}_{KG} + \dot{\tau}_{FL}) = 0 \qquad (18a)$$

$$\dot{\tau}_{FG} + \dot{\tau}_{GB} - 2(\dot{\tau}_{FB} + \dot{\tau}_{AG}) = 0 \qquad (18b)$$

$$\dot{\tau}_{FL} + \dot{\tau}_{LH} + \dot{\tau}_{HB} + \dot{\tau}_{FB} - (\dot{\tau}_{FG} + \dot{\tau}_{LG} + \dot{\tau}_{HG} + \dot{\tau}_{BG}) = 0$$
$$(18c)$$

$$\dot{\tau}_{LG} + \dot{\tau}_{GH} - 2(\dot{\tau}_{LH} + \dot{\tau}_{GM}) = 0 \qquad (18d)$$

$$\dot{\tau}_{BG} + \dot{\tau}_{GH} + \dot{\tau}_{BC} - 2(\dot{\tau}_{GC} + \dot{\tau}_{BH}) = 0 \qquad (18e)$$

and 13 strain-displacement relations

$$\dot{\omega}_{FL} = -2\dot{\theta}_I + \dot{\theta}_G \qquad \dot{\omega}_{KG} = -2\dot{\theta}_I - \dot{d} \qquad (19a,b)$$

$\tau_{ij}\dot{\omega}_{ij} \geq 0$ at a yielding edge. Evidently they will be satisfied for any θ_J satisfying

$$-\dot{d} \leq \dot{\theta}_J \leq 0 \tag{23}$$

so that the kinematic solution is not unique, but it is bounded.

Now, all of the edges involved in a mechanism motion about node J have yielded. Thus, there is no internal work and hence $\dot{\theta}_J$ can not be determined. However, this configuration is not a mechanism since a mechanism motion in either direction would require unloading in some edges. Indeed, if the motion about node J were the only contribution to edges LG and GH for example, $\dot{\theta}_J$ would have to be zero. The freedom allowed by (23) is due to the fact that other mechanisms also produce strain rates and that only the total strain rate is subjected to the inequalities (22).

5. _Example_. A computer program was written to implement the finite element slip model, and was used to solve the problen illustrated in Fig. 1. An elastic/perfectly plastic material is placed in a perfectly lubricated box and indented with a rigid punch. This problen is a finite domain approximation to the Prandtl problem [1,2] of a rigid rough punch indenting a semi-infinite perfectly-plastic material under conditions of plane strain. It is also essentially the one considered in Sec. 3 except that the domain is larger and $u_o = 0$. Details of the solution and a discussion of the computer program may be found in [6].

The first stage of our solution is the fully elastic range. This stage is terminated when edge pq of Fig. 1 reaches positive yield for $v_o = 2.27$ G'/k and an averaged compressive stress under the punch of 2.50, i.e., $T_1 = -2.50$. Figure 5 pictures the elastic displacement field by showing the averaged vertex displacements at representative small nodes.

As v_o is increased above its maximum elastic value there will be a succession of elastic-plastic stages. The sequence in which edges become plastic is indicated in Fig. 6, and the load-deflection curve for the punch is shown in Fig. 7.

No difficulties with the solution are encountered until stage 10. The first rate solution at this stage shows that edge pv which reached positive yield at the end of stage 6, now has a negative strain rate $\dot{\omega}_{pv}$ and violates the inequality of the constitutive equation (10). Therefore, this rate solution must be rejected and edge pv assumed to be elastic again for stage 10. It remains elastic during all subsequent stages. The maximum unloading occurs at the end of stage 15 and is about 2% less than the yield stress.

Edge hi alternates being elastic and plastic. At the end of stage 10 this edge reaches positive yield and remains at yield until the beginning of stage 15. It is elastic in stages 15 and 16, plastic in 17, elastic again in stages 18-21, and plastic from then on. After initial yield, the elastic stress is never less than 99% of the yield stress so that, in fact, no serious error would be introduced if unloading were

neglected.

At the end of stage 19 we see in Fig. 6 that the edges of the elementary large node mechanism of node p are all at yield. Therefore, $\dot{\theta}_p$ is undetermined, subject to the inequalities of Eq. (10). These inequalities reduce to

$$-.179\dot{v}_0 \geq \dot{\theta}_p \geq -.189\dot{v}_0 \tag{24}$$

for stages 20 and 21.

Fig. 6 also shows that at the end of stage 21 all of the edges associated with the elementary mechanism of small node k are also at yield so that there is a further singularity in the stiffness matrix. The rate solution for stage 22 puts the following bounds on $\dot{\theta}_k$ and $\dot{\theta}_p$:

$$-.114\dot{v}_0 \geq \dot{\theta}_k \geq -.121\dot{v}_0$$

$$\tag{25}$$

$$.055\dot{v}_0 + 2\dot{\theta}_k \leq \dot{\theta}_p \leq -.190\dot{v}_0$$

At the end of stage 22, four edges simultaneously reach yield, $T_1 = -6.00$, and $v_0 = 25.05$ G'/k. It is evident from Fig. 6 that sufficient edges have yielded to permit the mechanism motions shown in Fig. 8a with all inequalities in (10) being satisfied, as well as numerous other mechanisms. Since all stresses in the non-homogeneous equilibrium equation corresponding to (16) are at yield and hence constant, the load is constant, and $T_1 = -6.00$ represents the yield-point load.

In order to evaluate this method of velocity-discontinuities we compare the results in the fully

elastic range and at the limit load condition with analytical and other numerical results.

Green and Zerna [7] have obtained an analytical solution to the Prandtl problem for an incompressible elastic material. Their displacements are shown by dashed arrows in Fig. 5. The dotted arrows show the solution of the elastic problem according to the classical finite element model with constant-strain triangles and no slip, taking $\nu = 0.49$.

Figure 5 shows surprisingly good agreement for the elastic solution. It must, of course, be emphasized that the dimensionless displacements for the other solutions are defined in terms of known physical constants, whereas the slip model they include the essentially unknowable modulus G'. However, by choosing the constant G' = 14.05 G so that the overall slopes match in Fig. 7, we obtain good agreement over the entire field.

The agreement of the three solutions is quite good near the punch and along most of the free boundary. The poor agreement along the edges suggests that the size of the box in the model was too small to give a good approximation to a semi-infinite domain.

Little information is available for comparison of the various elastic-plastic stages, but a partial solution at the yield-point load was first given by

Prandtl [4] and was later shown by Shield and Drucker to be complete [8]. Fig. 8b shows the resulting kinematic pattern. The yield point stress is:

$$T_1 = - (2 + \pi) = - 5.14 \tag{26}$$

compared with our value of -6.00.

6. Conclusions. Other examples have been considered in [6]. These include the Prandtl problem for a smooth punch, and tension of bars with a deep perpendicular slit in either or both sides. The results are all generally similar to the problem of Sec. 5. In all cases, the program ran smoothly and the difficulties posed by unloading and by non-unique velocity solutions proved easily surmountable.

We have presented a model based on slip which is easily adapted to computer use and which appears to give reasonable results for an elastic/perfectly-plastic material. Potential difficulties caused by a partial lack of uniqueness prior to yielding do not prove unsurmountable, although it would be desirable to further investigate this phenomenon. The fact that G' cannot be determined means that only relative displacements can be determined, but it does not affect the stress solution and appears a small price to pay for the simplicity of the model.

An obvious question arises as to the feasibility and desirability of a model which would include both constant-strain deformations of the triangles and slip between them. It turns out that such a combined model separates into two problems corresponding to its two

constituients, and that the two problems are only weakly coupled. Details of this combined model are reported an elsewhere [6].

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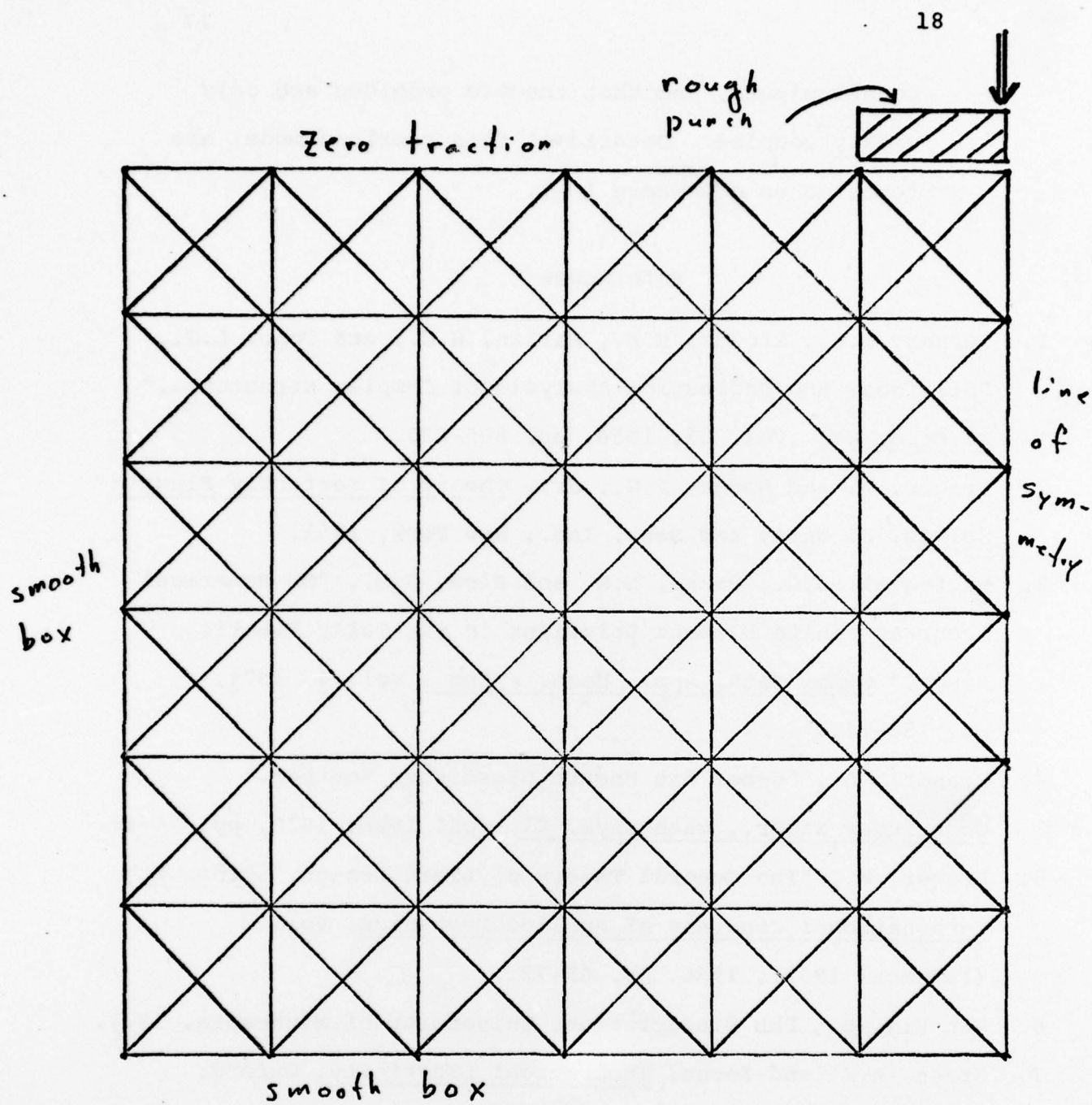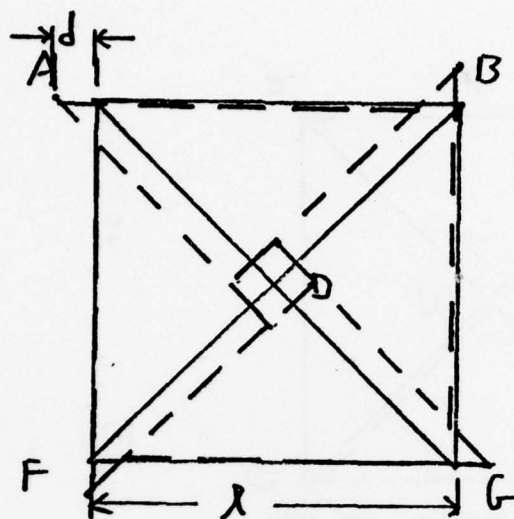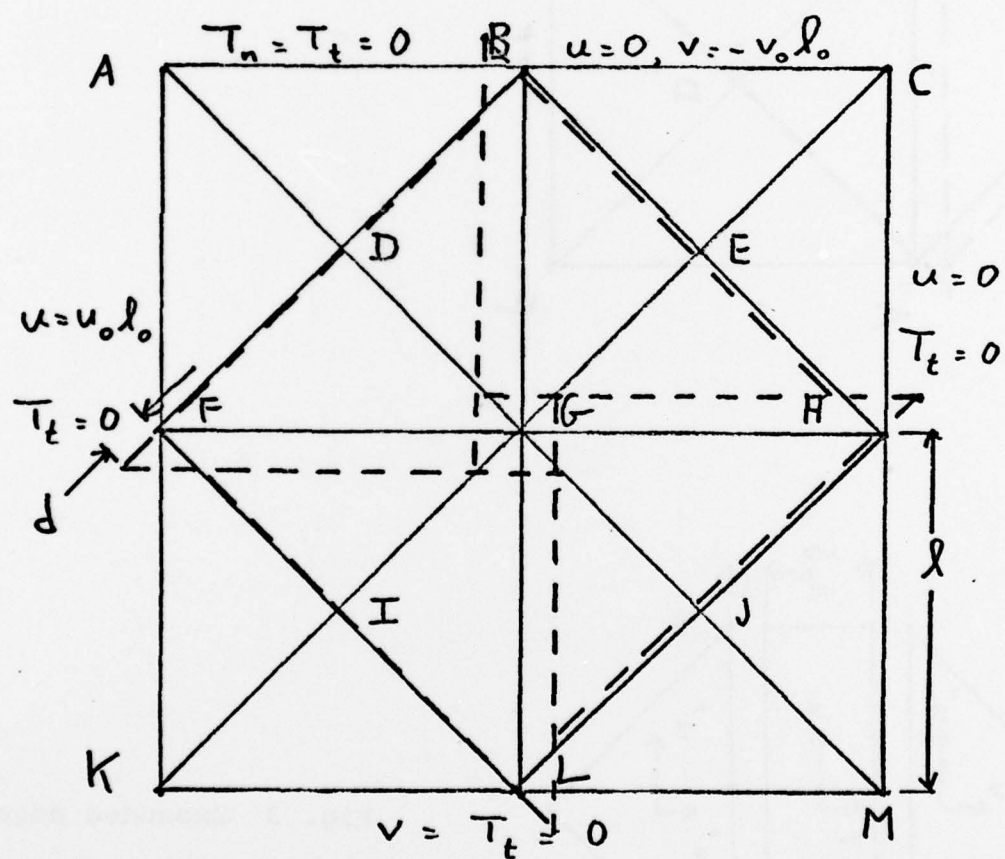
Fig. 1 Prandtl punch problem

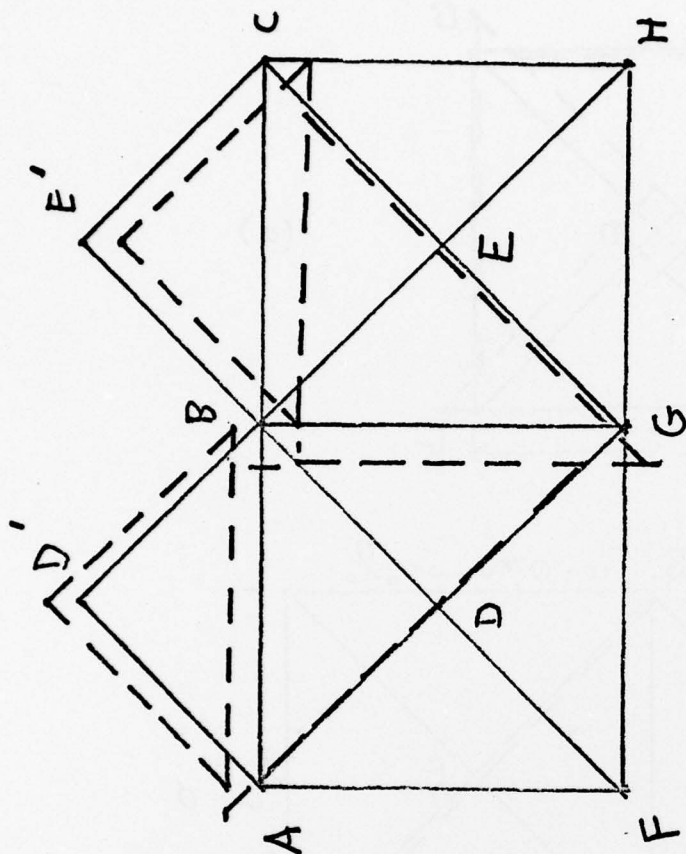Fig. 2 Elementary mechanisms (a) small node (b) large node

Fig. 4   Boundary mechanism

Fig. 3   Expanded edge

A   E   D

B   C

slip model
analytical solution [7]
classical model
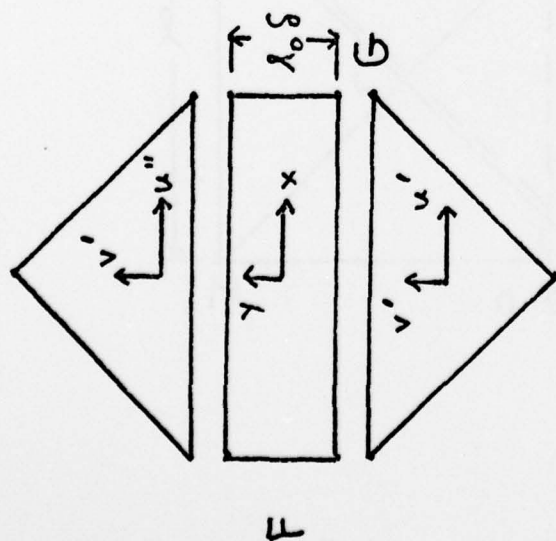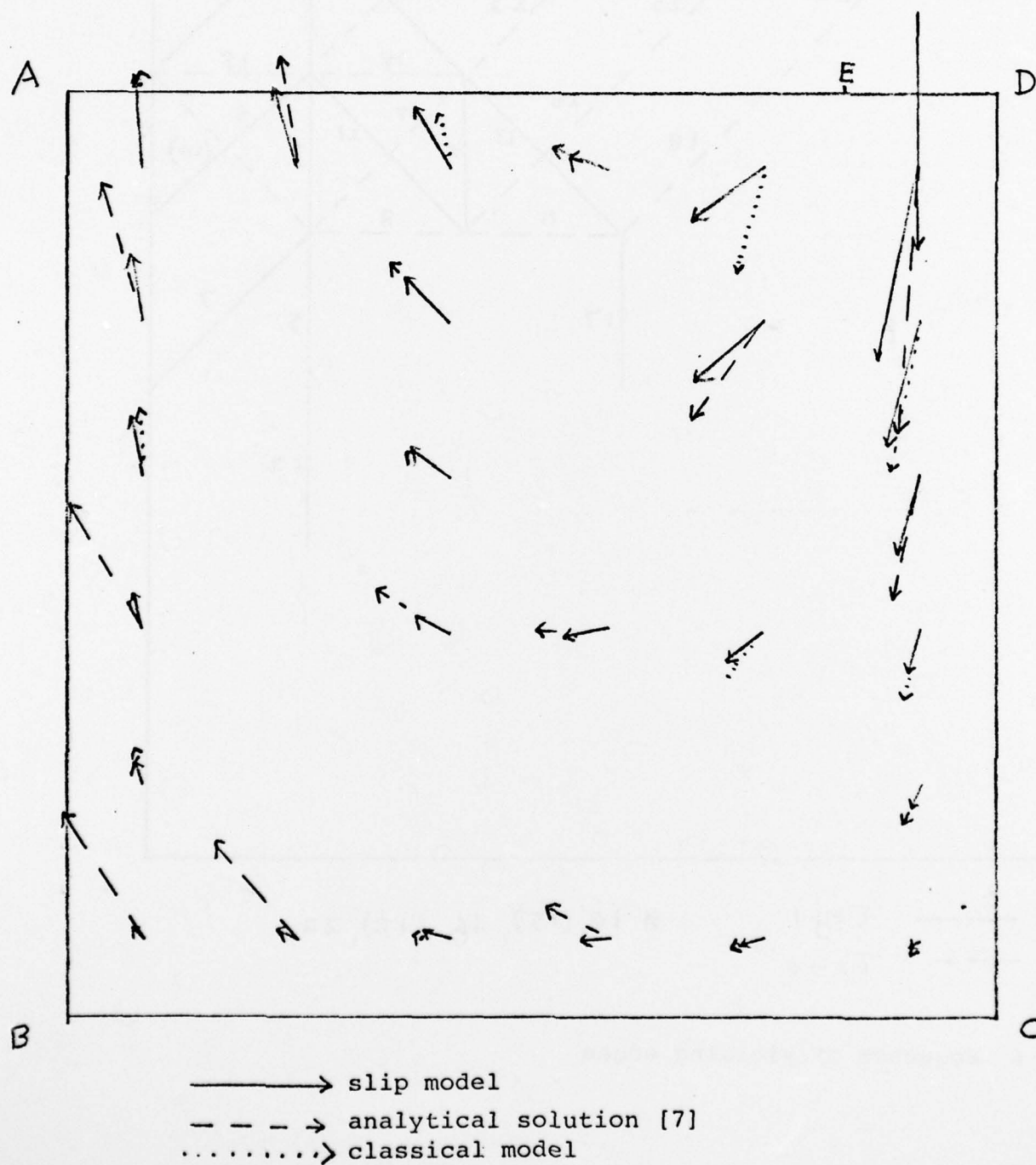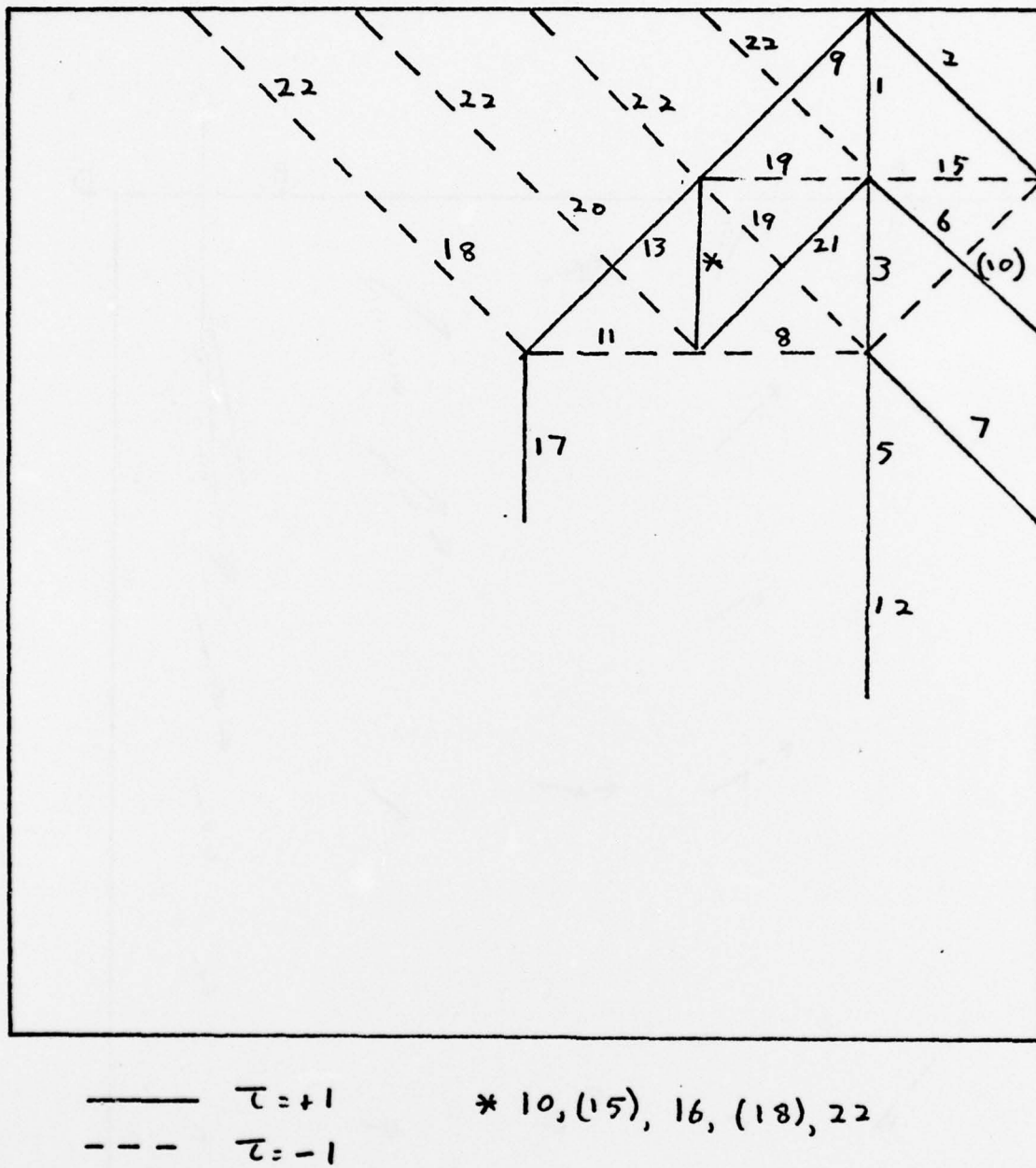
Fig. 5 Elastic displacements
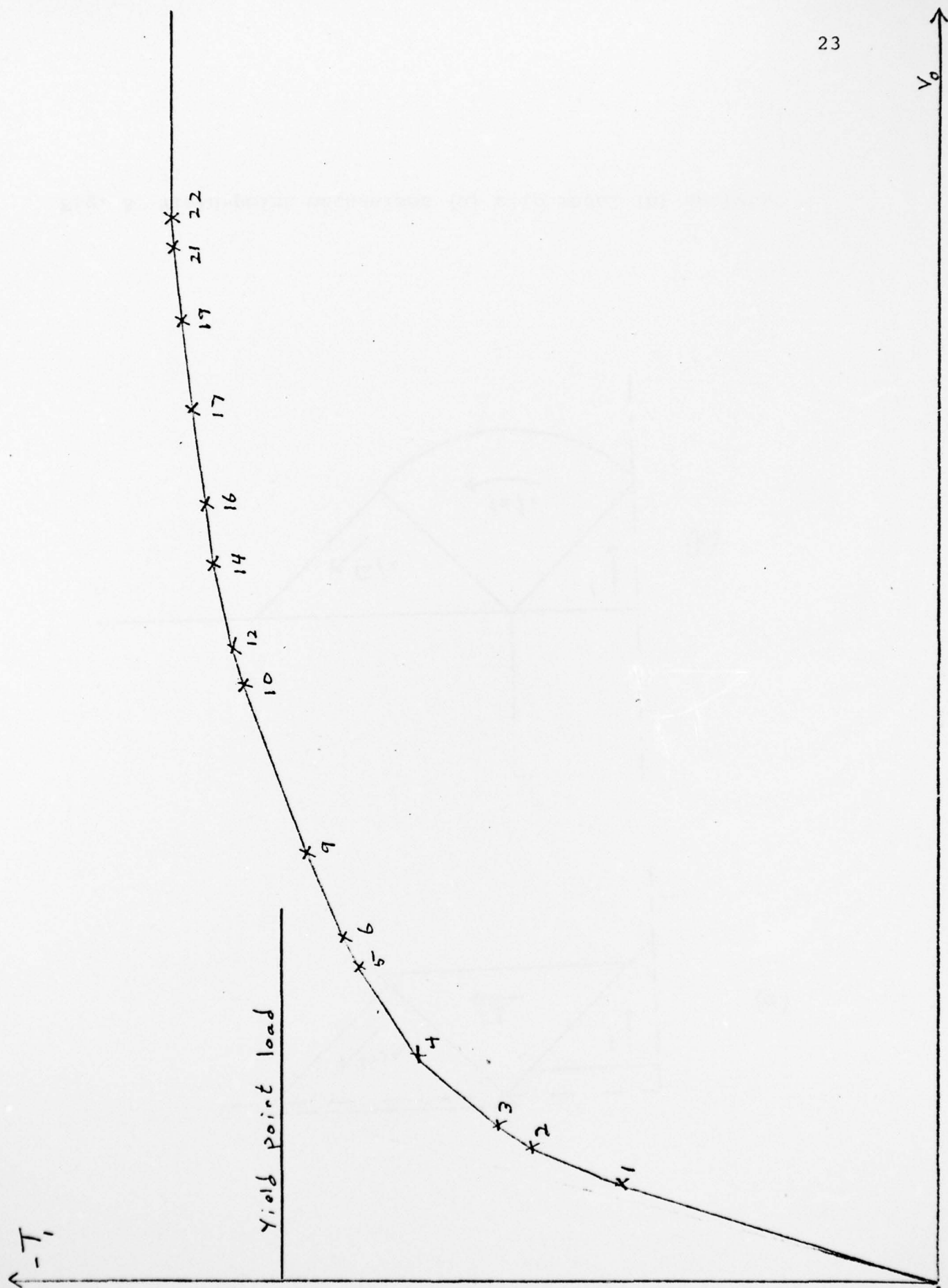
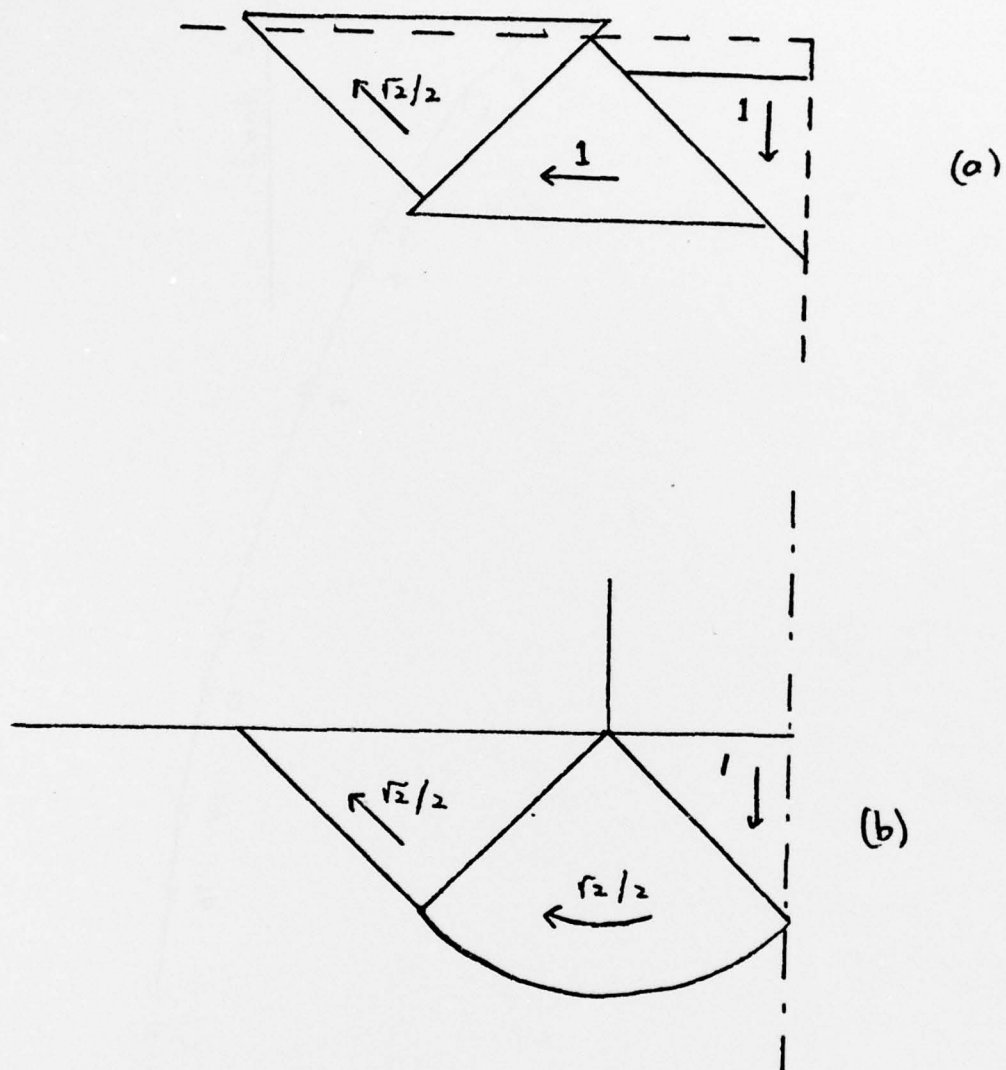Fig. 6 Sequence of yielding edges

Fig. 7 Load-displacement curve

Fig. 8 Yield-point mechanisms (a) slip model (b) analytic